

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

The Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) met in person on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, and moved from Multi-Purpose Room #1 to the Williamson County Administrative Complex Conference Room due to the number of guests attending the meeting. Chair, Robert Brown called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

A roll call of members was taken, and the following members were present: Robert D. Brown, Chair; Susan Kimberley "Kim" Henke, Member; Phyllis Streiff, Member; Jonathan Duda, Member, Wanda Bruce Graham, Secretary and Chad Gray, Administrator of Elections.

Other attendees were the following who signed the attached sheet at the meeting (Note: All were asked to print their names; however, this did not happen and/or some names were illegible) were also present: Kathy Harms, Chuck Shelton, Sharon Limpus, Frank Limpus, Steven Gallers, Darcie Cross, Emily Benesh, Dan Laidlaw, Annie Kananack, Ruth Kortebein, Victoria Jackson-Wessel, Christina Read, Jeff Duncan, Andy Jordan, Beckie Woodmare, Kevin R. Benson, Bob Holmes, Spigel, Sharon Spigel, Maria Murphy, David L'Heureux, D. Chenard, J. Barfield (Jennifer Barfield), Theresa Page, Angela Becker, Liz Custer, Bryce Custer, Nise Davies, Lisa Danks, Jamie McCullough, Julie Martin, Bette Holmes, Steve Mornout, Kenneth Choate, DeeDee Hoover, Jon Hoover, Olivia Shupe, Jerry Rainey, Lisa Lenox, Greg Lenox, Carolyn Gerwin, Cheryl Brown, and Ken Nimmons.

Old Business:

- (1) Ms. Streiff made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2021, meeting. Ms. Henke seconded the motion. It passed 4-0; Mr. Duda abstained.
- (2) Mr. Gray provided an update on the status of the Williamson County Election Institute Informational Seminar. He advised that one informational video had been completed and the editing is ongoing. The other videos were to be filmed later. Mr. Gray commented that these informational videos will be telecast on the Williamson County You Tube Channel WCTV.

New Business:

- (1) Mr. Gray presented the results of the May 4, 2021, City of Brentwood Municipal Election. Mr. Duda made a motion to certify the results. Ms. Graham seconded the motion. It passed 5-0. Mr. Gray noted that there were no provisional ballots cast in this election; the City of Brentwood Municipal Election had 4,376 voters cast ballots.
- (2) Mr. Gray provided an update on the Election Commission Office space located at 405 Downs Boulevard. Mr. Kevin Benson, Williamson County Property Manager, commented that the current renovations are projected to be completed within two months with a projected completion date of September 24, 2021. This is the target date. The process of relocating the Election Office began in 2019. Mr. Gray commented that his plan is to relocate the office after the City of Franklin Election scheduled for October 26, 2021. Mr. Brown noted that the new space will include an area with clear view of all processing actions. He also stated there is better parking and more room for the election office staff. Mr. Duda commented that there is a need for a separate area to conduct absentee ballot adjudications. He asked, "What is the process for a change order at this time?" Mr. Benson noted that there are no funds left for this project for

any other improvements from the County Commission. There might be funds available through the "Cares Act" which could be used for this purpose. Mr. Brown appointed an ad hoc committee of Mr. Duda and Ms. Graham to discuss the new office space layout with Mr. Benson and Mr. Gray.

- (3) Mr. Gray presented the Voter List Maintenance Policy for 2021-2022 pursuant to T.C.A 2-2-106 (b-e) for adoption. Mr. Gray commented that there is no change from the plan adopted two years ago. Mr. Duda asked for clarification regarding "inactive voter". Mr. Gray stated that mail has been returned when the voter no longer lives at the address the Election Office has on file. A motion was made by Mr. Duda to adopt the Voter List Maintenance Policy for 2021-2022 pursuant to T.C.A. 2-2-106 (b-e). Ms. Henke seconded the motion; it passed 5-0.
- (4) Mr. Brown advised that the New Voter Registration Forms filed since March 30, 2021, for the Election Commissioners review from Mr. Gray would be completed after public comments since there are number of attendees.
- (5) Public Comment Summary: Chair Brown invited comments from the meeting attendees.
 - Christina M. Read, JD provided each Commissioner a copy of "U.S. Election Integrity: Recommendations Report authored by Jared Black, Stu Cvrk, Paul deWitt, John Droz, & Garrett Ziegler dated 4-22-21 (rev 5-16-21) for our information.
 - Frank Limpus inquired if the WCEC utilized the E Verify System to check citizenship status of registered voters. Administrator Gray advised that a variety of State of TN checks are used. Mr Limpus commented that he wants to make sure our voter rolls are pure.
 - Lisa Lenox inquired as to how the WCEC notifies other states when a voter from that location registers to vote here. Administrator Gray advised a written notice is sent to that State Coordinator of Elections when the voter indicates their previous location of registration.
 - David L'Heureux commented that he had worked the polls for 15 years; he is skeptical of the Dominion System. Chair Brown explained that the Dominion System used by WCEC is not online. The old systems with ES&S did not provide a paper ballot backout. He further explained that the WCEC Dominion System is not connected to any online system but is a separately contained system between Voting Centers computers and the Franklin system to ensure a voter cannot go to Brentwood and vote then drive to Franklin and try to vote again. He added we now have a paper ballot backup which was 100% verified by a different scanner to reverify votes. He further noted that all scanners are checked to ensure zero (0) votes on the scanners before use.
 - Greg Lenox commented that he has 15 years of cybersecurity experience. He further commented that poll workers and the process is not bad. He made statements about other states' processes. It was noted that the State of Tennessee/Williamson County does not randomly send out absentee ballots to voters. Commissioner Duda commented that WCEC System uses a system that we (Commissioners) demonstrated most confident to serve all voters. Paper ballots are available, and our process is not networked. WCEC has done everything to mitigate risks. Chair Brown commented that the State verified the systems 5-0 to recertify Dominion as a vendor. He noted that the State setup an Ad Hoc Committee as to how IT security is established, and every vendor will be rechecked by the State.
 - Emily Benesh Asked about how/when data is reported to the media?

Chair Brown note that the State requires an audit be accomplished; WCEC audit three (3) precincts. He commented that he proposed more paper ballots be counted.

- Jamie McCullough said she appreciates Early Voting. She commented why invite the concern regarding the Dominion System. She is just skeptical about the equipment. Chair Brown advised that State and County funds have already been spent on this new equipment about 1.5 million dollars.

NOTE: WCEC took a break from 6:05 until 6:08 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:08 p.m.

- Dan Laidlaw commented that he thinks his vote is not as safe as his money. Stated that he had previously worked as a Counting Board member and likes paper ballots. He appreciates the process but stated we are putting too much confidence in QR code. Chair Brown commented that the scanners are tested to make sure they are reading properly. Mr. Laidlaw thinks the code could be hacked. Chair Brown repeated over and over that our controls are in a closed system. Mr. Laidlaw questioned during the County Board process why the Dominion processor left the room. Chair Brown indicated that WCEC has addressed the issue and the WCEC staff has been trained to process them (absentee ballots). Again, he stated he has recommended auditing more paper ballots.
- Jennifer Barfield made general comments about Dominion equipment, passwords, and the adjudication of absentee ballots in Atrium County?? Both Commissioners Duda and Henke commented that the concerns were not applicable to Williamson County since we do not use weighted voting or ranked choice voting.
- Commissioner Duda further reminded the attendees that there is a system within the State; we use the Democracy suite. He commented a Dominion employee assists with the absentee ballot screening.
- Annie Kananack applauded the WCEC; however, she questions Dominion's integrity. She asked what would it take to change our minds about the current system? Chair Brown commented that because there may be problems elsewhere that does not mean that we (WCEC) cannot use them (Dominion equipment).
- Frank Limpus returned to speak again and commented that he still has concerns with using the Dominion equipment. Commissioner Duda commented that Dominion is responsive to WCEC.
- Chair Brown continued to reiterate our (WCEC) system is not affected by accusations against Dominion. He thanked the speakers for their concerns. WCEC is awaiting the State's review process.
- Dee Dee Hoover commented against Dominion software systems. Chair Brown advised that the Dominion System referred to by Ms. Hoover was not used by WCEC. Ms. Hoover's comments indicated that she is against technology and wants hand counted paper ballots. She believes electronic voting can be hacked. Chair Brown invited her to join the WCEC Counting Board.
- Christina M. Read stated she will join the Counting Board. Chair Brown commented that he would invite a Dominion representative to speak to the attendees. Ms. Read asked the Commissioners to read her report and specifically mentioned page 10. Chair Brown advised that she might possibly become an observer. He also commented that the State has a three-member Ad Hoc Election Committee. Mark Goins, the Coordinator of Elections and Judy Blackburn, who is the Chairman of the State Election Commission would be the point of contact. He further noted that the State is the level to ask for independent auditors to review the Dominion systems.

- Brian Morrison stated he was an IT expert for the Federal government. He indicated concerns about inside threats not any outside attack especially related to SD cards. Mr. Morrison commented that anything could be hacked.
- Olivia Shupe made negative comments about the Dominion system at other locations and nothing specific about WCEC. She commented about the history of Dominion and cases regarding Dominion equipment.
- Chair Brown thanked all the attendees for coming.

(6) Two hundred (200) New Voter Registration Forms filed since March 30, 2021, were reviewed by Commissioners and no discrepancies noted.

The Commission agreed its next meeting will be determined as needed via coordination between the WCEC Chair and the Election Administrator. Commissioners will be notified once the date is determined.

There being no further business the WCEC meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.


Wanda Bruce Graham
Secretary

Attachment: 5-18-2021 sign-in sheet



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Williamson County Election Commission will convene in person on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in Multi-Purpose Room #1 in the Williamson County Administrative Complex, located at 1320 West Main Street, Franklin, Tennessee.

AGENDA

- I. Old Business
 - (1) Approve the minutes from the April 20, 2021 , Election Commission Meeting
 - (2) Update on the status of the Williamson County Election Institute Informational Seminar as presented by Mr. Gray, Administrator of Elections
- II. New Business
 - (1) Certify the results of the May 4, 2021, City of Brentwood Municipal Election
 - (2) Update on Election Commission Office on Downs Boulevard
 - (3) Adoption of a Voter List Maintenance Policy for 2021-2022 pursuant to T.C.A § 2-2-106 (b-e)
 - (4) Review New Voter Registration Forms filed since March 30, 2021
- III. Adjournment

5/18/2021 WCEC

Kathy Harms

Chuck Shelton

Sharon Limpus

~~Frank~~ LIMPOS

Steven Gallers

DANIEL CROSS

EMILY BENSON

Dan Hadden

ANNIE KANANACK

RUTH KORTEBEIN

VICTORIA JACKSON-Wessel

Christina Reed

JEFF DUNCAN

Andy Jordan

Beckie Woodmore

KEVIN R. BENSON

Bob Holmes

Stuart & Sharon Spigel

MARIA MURPHY

David Hyeureux

D. Chernick

J. Bartfield

Theresa Page

Angela Becker

Riz Custer

Erica Custer

Nisa Davis

Lisa Davis

Jamie McCullough

Julie Martin

Pete Holmer

Steve Mornout

Keneth Choate

Debbie Hoover

Jon Hoover

Olivia Shupe

Jerry Rainey

John Shum

Greg Heno

Cady Gerwin

Brian

Ken Nimmone

END OF THE LIST